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TENBURY RURAL DISTRICT.

A N N U A L R E P O R T

- of the -

MEDICAL OFFICER of HEALTH

for

1 9 2 5

To THE TENBURY RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.



Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I beg to present the Annual Report on the Sanitary circumstances and administration of the district for the year ending December 31st 1925.

The Memorandum of the Ministry of Health directs that a "Survey" Report should be prepared dealing with (a) The measure of progress made in the area during the preceding five years in the improvement in public health, (b) The extent and character of the changes made during that period in the public health services of the area, (c) Any further action of importance in the organization and development of Public Health services contemplated by the Local Authority or considered desirable by the Medical Officer of Health.

NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area (acres).	-	-	23,440
Population (Census 1921).	-	-	4,433
" 1925 estimated	-	-	4,421
Number of inhabited houses, 1921	-	-	1,073
Rateable Value.	-	£35,486	
Sum represented by a penny rate.		£110	

The district comprises twelve parishes and is rural in character except for the market town of Tenbury on the northern boundary. The contour is very irregular, and parts of it are very hilly with steep gradients. The subsoil is clay and marl overlaying gravel beds more or less full of water resting on the Old Red Sandstone. Agriculture, including the Hop-growing and fruit farms, is almost the only industry, and finds occupation for the greater portion of the population.

VITAL STATISTICS.

The following table sets out the Birth, Death and Infantile Mortality Rates for the years 1920 - 1924.

	<u>1920</u>	<u>1921</u>	<u>1922</u>	<u>1923</u>	<u>1924</u>	<u>Average</u>
Birth-rate.	17.76	18.9	17.7	19.8	18.3	18.5
Death-rate	11.07	12.8	12.1	13.5	11.6	12.2
Infantile Mortality Rate.	47	35	50	34	12	35

The average birth-rate of the period under review is slightly less than the average of the prewar years. The death-rate shows a reduction of 1.7, which I have no doubt will be permanent and is the result of improvement in sanitation and a wider knowledge of the laws of health, and this is confirmed by the remarkable fall in the Infantile Mortality Rate, the average of the year 1920 - 1924 is 35 and of 1910 - 1914 it was 86. The object of the Survey Report every five years, is to take stock, and there is ample evidence in the Vital Statistics, that the work of the Sanitary Authority and the County Council Health services are producing marked results in diminishing the amount of disease, and prolonging life.

VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1925.

There were 80 births during the year, 39 male and 41 female. The Birth-rate is 18.0 per thousand of the population, the average of the previous five years being 18.5 and the rate for England and Wales for the year 18.3. Five births were illegitimate equal to six per cent.

The deaths numbered 49 with a resulting death-rate of 11.0, the average of the preceding five years being 12.2 and the rate for England and Wales for 1925 was 12.2.

The causes of death were: Influenza 2; Tuberculosis of the Respiratory System 2; Other Tuberculous disease 1; Cancer 4; Diabetes 1; Cerebral haemorrhage 3; Heart Disease 9; Arterio-sclerosis 2; Bronchitis 2; Pneumonia 3; Other respiratory diseases 1; Cirrhosis of the Liver 1; Congenital Debility 1; Suicide 1; Other deaths from Violence 1; Other defined diseases 15:

The returns show no excessive mortality from any cause. Deaths from accidents were much reduced. Two thirds of the deaths were in persons over seventy years of age, fifteen being between seventy and eighty years, twelve between eighty and ninety and three over ninety years.

INFANTILE MORTALITY.

There were only two infant deaths recorded, one from Pemphigus and one from Marasmus.

The Infantile Mortality Rate is 25 per thousand births, as compared with an average of the previous five years of 35, and a rate of 75 for England and Wales for the year. It is obvious that 1925 was a particularly healthy year for the district.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES.

HOSPITAL PROVIDED OR SUBSIDIZED BY THE LOCAL AUTHORITY OR BY THE COUNTY COUNCIL.

- (1) Tuberculosis. Sanatorium at Knightwick is subsidized by the County Council.
Worcester Infirmary for Orthopaedic cases.
- (2) Maternity.)
(3) Childrens.) Nil.
(4) Fever.)
(5) Smallpox.)
- (6) Other. Burford Cottage Hospital on the borders of the district is maintained chiefly by voluntary contributions from Tenbury.

There is no Institutional provision for unmarried mothers, Illegitimate children except under the Poor Law.

Ambulance facilities: Nil.

Clinic and Treatment Centres. There are no Clinics or treatment Centres in the district.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE LOCAL AUTHORITY.

Mr. R. W. Jarvis, the Sanitary Inspector, is also Surveyor to the Council. He holds the certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute. A contribution is made to his salary and to that of the Medical Officer, by the Ministry under the Public Health Acts.

PROFESSIONAL NURSING IN THE HOME.

a. General. There are district nurses in the parishes of Lindridge and Eardiston.

b. For Infectious Diseases. The County Council provide a nurse for epidemics of Measles and other outbreaks in connection with the schools.

MIDWIVES. The Local Authority do not employ or subsidize any midwives in the area. There are at present eight resident and practising in the district.

CHEMICAL WORKS. Samples of drinking water are sent to the Analyst at Worcester.

LEGISLATION IN FORCE. The Infectious (Prevention) Act has been in force for many years. There are by-laws relating to new Buildings, Scavenging and Nuisances in the town of Tenbury. In addition the Model Byelaws for Cowsheds, Dairies and Milkshops, and for Hop-pickers accommodation were adopted in 1907.

LABORATORY WORK. Pathological and Bacteriological examinations are made at Worcester by an Official appointed by the County Council.

Diphtheria Antitoxin is supplied to Medical practitioners for use in the case of poor persons.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water. With the exception of the town of Tenbury the district is supplied from wells on the premises. In very few instances does the supply fail in a dry summer, and improvements in private supplies is being constantly required for their better protection.

Tenbury town, which is supplied from Springs on the Clee Hill, has a constant service of very pure water. The water is brought by a five inch main for three miles to the Reservoir, situated in the Burford District. The Reservoir, which hold 90,000 gallons, about two days supply, feed the town by gravitation. About three hundred and twelve houses in Tenbury and thirty-six in Burford are connected to the mains.

Apart from the houses erected by the Council (30) in the period under review, only ^{one} connection was made in the town.

The analysis made by the County Analyst in 1923 proved very satisfactory.

Drainage and Sewage. In the rural part of the area, reconstruction of drainage and remedy of defects have been carried out at sixty premises during the last five years. The widely scattered position of the houses makes nuisances from sewage matter of rare occurrence, and they are promptly dealt with when discovered.

In the town of Tenbury practically every house is connected to the public sewers, and the additions in recent years have been the Council houses and one or two erected by private persons.

Closet Accommodation. The earth closet or Pail Closet are excessively in use in the rural parts of the district, and also in the town of Tenbury, where between two and three hundred are installed.

There are in addition about 180 water closets, five conversions and two new houses being added during the five years.

Scavenging. The only public system is in the town, where a weekly collection of refuse and pails is made. The pails are taken away to be disinfected and cleansed and are replaced by others which have been previously dealt with.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICT.

Attached to the Report is a statement of the Sanitary work carried out during the year. Five legal and twelve informal notices were served and eleven of them were complied with. Fifty houses were inspected and notices were served in regard to water supply to five houses, drainage at thirteen, closet accommodation at two and dilapidations at one.

PREMISES CONTROLLED BY BYELAWS.

The accommodation provided for Hop-pickers was inspected before occupation and thoroughly cleansed and disinfected after the pickers left. No infectious disease occurred in the district during their visit.

Schools. The Lindridge School was closed on account of the prevalence of Measles, and Tenbury Infant School for Whooping Cough.

HOUSING.

1. General Housing conditions. As in most rural districts, there is almost a total cessation of cottage building by private enterprise, and where this continues for a number of years, there is bound to be a shortage owing to some of the oldest cottages being beyond repair. This, at the present time, I think represents the position that has to be met in this district.

There is little doubt that the diminishing population in rural districts is in part due to the housing difficulty. There is no immediate prospect of industrial development either in the town of Tenbury or the rural part of the area, which is likely to demand increased housing accommodation.

2. Overcrowding. This is not very prevalent and is as a rule the result of large families in houses without a third bedroom. Only six cases have called for action in the last five years.

3. Fitness of houses. Generally the houses throughout the district are in a good state of repair, with here and there structures, which are below a reasonable standard as a result of age.

A further instalment of the original Scheme for houses has I understand been under consideration by the Council.

The Government Subsidy in agricultural districts is now sufficient to prevent any considerable deficit, that would require to be met by the rates and it seems a favourable time to proceed.

HOUSING STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1925.

Number of new houses erected during the year:-

(a) Total	-	-	4
(b) With State assistance under Housing Acts:			
1. By Local Authority.	-	-	0
2. By other bodies or persons.	-	-	1

I. Unfit dwelling-houses.

Inspection:

(1) Number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects.	-	30
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were inspected and recorded under Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations 1910.		0
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous and injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation.		3
(4) Number of dwelling-houses found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation.	-	2

II. Remedy of defects without service of formal notices

Number of dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers.

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III. Action under Statutory powers.

A. Proceedings under Section 3 of Housing Act 1925 Nil.

B. Proceedings under the Public Health Acts:-

1. Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied.	-	3
2. Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:-		
a. By owner.	-	2
b. By Local Authority in default of owner.		0
c. Proceedings under Sections (1. 14. 15) of the Housing Act 1925.		Nil.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

a. Milk Supply. There are 19 Cowkeepers and Milksellers on the Register. They have been regularly inspected, and been the subject of ten notices, nine of which have been complied with.

There is an adequate supply of milk throughout the district.

No reports have been received in regard to milk found to contain Tubercle Bacilli having been exported from the District.

No licenses have been granted by the Local Authority for the sale of milk under the Milk (Special Designations)

Order 1923. and no refusal or revocation of registration have been necessary.

b. Meat. Mr. Jarvis has been appointed Meat Inspector and visits the Slaughterhouses regularly on the day the killing is done.

Private Slaughterhouses.

	<u>In 1920</u>	<u>In January</u> <u>1925</u>	<u>In December</u> <u>1925</u>
Registered.	3	3	3
Licensed.	0	0	0
	-----	-----	---
	3	3	3
	-----	-----	---

PREVALENCE OF, and CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

During the years 1920 - 1924 the following notifications were sent in:

	<u>1920</u>	<u>1921</u>	<u>1922</u>	<u>1923</u>	<u>1924</u>	<u>Total</u>
Diphtheria	2	3	1	-	1	7
Scarlet Fever.	6	6	15	7	26	60
Pneumonia.			1			1
Ophthalmia Neona- torum,	1		1			2

The district has during the past five years been very free from notifiable Infectious Disease, with the exception of Scarlet Fever.

The type of the disease has been mild throughout the period, there were no deaths. Hospital Isolation would, no doubt, reduce the number of cases, several times there were three patients in one house, but as a rule they rapidly recover and require no special treatment.

With regard to an Isolation Hospital for Smallpox I have suggested that the County Council should acquire an existing hospital and hold it in readiness. The record of Tenbury and of the County, does not seem to warrant any expenditure in providing further Hospitals for small areas. No case has occurred in Tenbury during my tenure of office of twenty years.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING THE YEAR 1925.

<u>Disease.</u>	<u>Total cases</u> <u>notified.</u>	<u>Cases admitted</u> <u>to Hospital.</u>	<u>Deaths.</u>
Scarlet Fever.	4	0	0

Only four notifications of Scarlet Fever were received, they were sporadic, occurring in March, May, July and October in widely separated parishes.

TUBERCULOSIS

New cases and Mortality during 1925

Age Period.	<u>New Cases.</u>				<u>Deaths</u>			
	<u>Pulmonary</u>		<u>Non-Pulmonary</u>		<u>Pulmonary</u>		<u>Non-Pulmonary.</u>	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
5		1						
10		1						
15	1	1			1			
20		1						1
25								
35								
45	1				1			
55								
	2	4			2			1

Of the six cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis, two received treatment at Knightwick Sanatorium, one died within a short period of notification and one was declared not tuberculosis. There were two deaths from Pulmonary and one from Non-pulmonary.

During the period 1920 - 1924 twenty-one notifications of Pulmonary Tuberculosis were received and there were nineteen deaths in the period, and there were two notifications of non-pulmonary with seven deaths.

The death-rate from Pulmonary form during the five years was .8 per thousand of the population. This is somewhat higher than the rate for the County as a whole which in 1924 was 0.69.

The Tuberculosis Register for the district at present contains the names of thirty-four persons suffering from Pulmonary and six from Non-pulmonary.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

ALFRED E. WHITE.

The following is an Account furnished by the Sanitary Inspector, of Sanitary Work for the Year ending 31st December 1925, in the Tenbury Rural Sanitary District.

a Number of houses which have been inspected during the above period, either in connection with outbreaks of infectious disease, or in consequence of complaints, or in the course of a systematic Sanitary Survey. - 50

a Please note that this number should include all houses inspected, including those under the Housing and Town Planning Act, but not houses that are visited for another purpose without an inspection of the premises.

Number of legal notices sent.	-	-	5
Number of informal notices sent.	-	-	12
Number of such notices complied with.	-	-	11
Number of letters written.	-	-	45

PARTICULARS OF SANITARY MATTERS REFERRED TO IN THE ABOVE NOTICES:-

(a) Houses to be disinfected after Infectious Disease.		12
(b) Deficient or objectionable water supply.		5
(c) New drains to be constructed or old drains to be amended.	-	13
(d) New closets to be provided or old ones to be amended in construction.	-	2
(e) Houses damp or dirty, or admitting rain, or weather, or otherwise in a bad sanitary condition.	-	1
(f) Offensive accumulations of all kinds.		1
(g) Animals so kept as to be a nuisance.	-	-
(h) Houses overcrowded.	-	1

Houses disinfected after infectious disease (other than phthisis).		9
Houses disinfected in cases of phthisis.	-	3
Privies converted to water closets.	-	1
Privies converted to earth closets.	-	4
Plans for new houses passed.	-	3
Certificates issued for water supply to new houses.		1
Houses connected to public water supply.	-	1
Repairs to public pumps and wells.	0	-
New public wells.	-	-
Private wells re-constructed or improved.	-	2
Houses connected to public sewerage.	-	-
Lengths of new sewers laid.	-	-
Length of new water mains laid.	-	-

A Public Convenience is now provided in Market Street with 2 W.C.'s for women, 1 W.C. & 3 stall urinal for men.

(Signed) R. W. JARVIS.

Inspector.

ANNUAL REPORT of the MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH for the Year 1925,
for the Rural District of Tenbury, on the administration of
the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, in connection with
FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

1. INSPECTION OF FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

(Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors of
Nuisances.

<u>Premises.</u>	<u>Number of Inspections.</u>
Workplaces (Other than Outworkers' premises).	18

2. DEFECTS FOUND IN FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

<u>Particulars</u>	<u>Number of Defects Found</u>
Sanitary accommodation:	
Unsuitable or defective.	1

